Computable type: an overview

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> Online Logic Seminar September 11, 2025





The surjection property

Topological invariants

Products

A compact set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ is:

- Computable if the set of rational balls intersecting K is decidable,
- Semicomputable if the set of rational balls that are disjoint from K is computably enumerable (c.e.).

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Example

There is a semicomputable disk in \mathbb{R}^2 which is not computable. Center (0,0), radius $1-\sum_{n\in\text{halting set}}2^{-n}$.

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Question

Is there a semicomputable *circle* which is not computable?

Spheres

Theorem ([Miller 2002])

If $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is homeomorphic to an n-dimensional sphere, then

X is semicomputable $\iff X$ is computable.







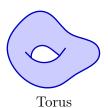
2-sphere

Computable type Manifolds

Theorem ([Iljazović 2013])

If $X \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ is a closed manifold, then

X is semicomputable $\iff X$ is computable.



Other spaces?

Definition

A compact space X has **computable type** if for every set $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}^m$ that is homeomorphic to X,

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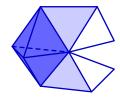
K is semicomputable $\iff K$ is computable.

We give a characterization of the simplicial complexes that have computable type.

Simplicial complexes

A simplicial complex is made of simplices of any dimensions.

- 1-simplex = edge
- 2-simplex = triangle,
- 3-simplex = tetrahedron,
- Etc.



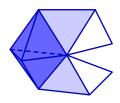
Main question

Which finite simplicial complexes X have computable type?

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Main question

Which finite simplicial complexes X have computable type?

Answer

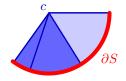
Look at the stars...



Simplicial complexes

A star S consists of:

- A center c,
- A boundary ∂S ,
- Rays from c to ∂S .



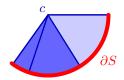
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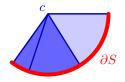




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Theorem ([Amir, H. 2021])

A finite simplicial complex has computable type \iff every star has the surjection property.

The surjection property

Topological invariants

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How to determine whether a star $(S, \partial S)$ has the surjection property?

- A partial characterization using (homology) cycles,
- A complete characterisation using homotopy.

The boundary of a 2-dimensional star is a graph.



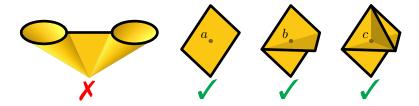
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Theorem ([Amir, H. 2021])

A 2-dimensional star has the surjection property \iff its boundary is a union of cycles.

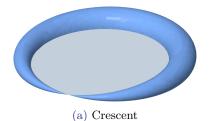
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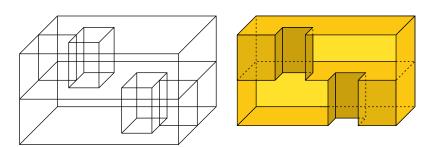


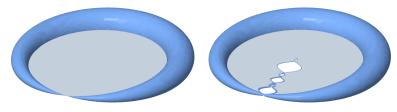
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A 2-dimensional star has the surjection property \iff its boundary is a union of cycles.

Cycles







Corollary

The "crescent" does not have computable type.

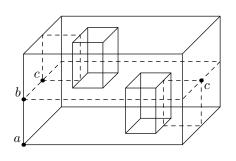
Indeed, this star does not have the surjection property:

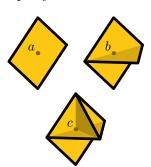


Corollary

The "house with two rooms" has computable type.

Indeed, all the stars have the surjection property:



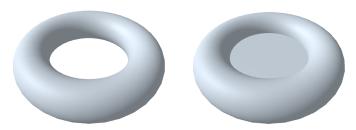


Higher dimensions

Theorem ([Amir, H. 2021])

A pure n-dimensional star has the surjection property \iff its boundary is a union of (n-1)-dimensional cycles.

Higher-dimensional cycles are described by homology.

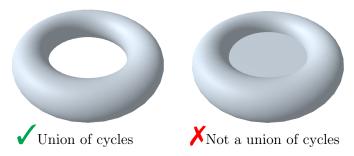


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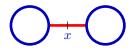


The surjection property Homotopy

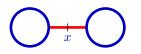
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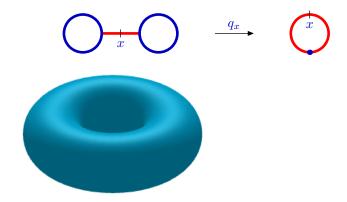




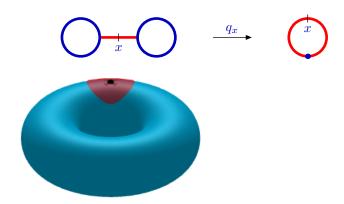
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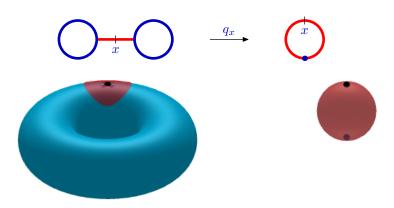
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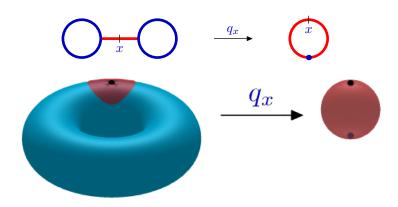
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Theorem

A star $(S, \partial S)$ has the surjection property $\iff \forall x \in \partial S$, the quotient map $q_x : \partial S \to \mathbb{S}_n$ is not homotopic to a constant.

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Corollary

Whether a finite simplicial complex has computable type is decidable.

Proof.

The article [1] shows that homotopy between maps is decidable.

[1] M. Filakovský, L. Vokrínek, **Are two given maps** homotopic? **An algorithmic viewpoint**, Found. Comput. Math. 20 (2) (2020) 311–330

The surjection property

Topological invariants

Products

Topological invariants

Let X be a compact space and \mathcal{P} a topological invariant.

Theorem ([Amir, H. 2021])

If X is minimal satisfying \mathcal{P} and \mathcal{P} is Σ_2^0 , then X has computable type.

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- A rational ball B intersects $K \iff K \setminus B \notin \mathcal{P}_n$,
- As \mathcal{P}_n is Π_1^0 , the latter can be effectively tested.

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Definition (The invariant \mathcal{H}_n)

A space X satisfies \mathcal{H}_n iff $\exists f: X \to \mathbb{S}_n$ which is not homotopic to a constant.

- \mathcal{H}_n is Σ_2^0 ,
- Every closed *n*-manifold is minimal satisfying \mathcal{H}_n .

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Question [Čelar, Iljazović 2021]

If X and Y both have computable type, does $X \times Y$ have computable type?

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Answer [Amir, H. 2023]

No. There exists X that has computable type, but $X \times \mathbb{S}_1$ does not.

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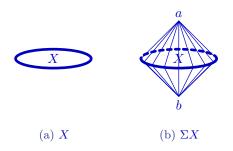
Answer [Amir, H. 2023]

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Again, we reduce the problem to homotopy of maps.

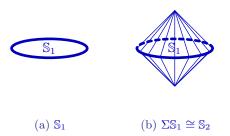
The **suspension** of a space X is the space ΣX obtained as follows:

- Add two points a, b to X,
- For each $x \in X$, add a segment from x to a, and a segment from x to b.

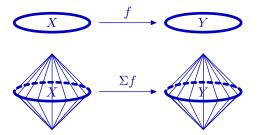


The suspension of a sphere is a sphere:

$$\Sigma S_n = S_{n+1}$$
.



The **suspension** of a function $f: X \to Y$ is $\Sigma f: \Sigma X \to \Sigma Y$.



When X is a simplicial complex, we obtain a further characterization of the X's such that ΣX has computable type.

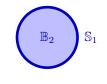
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- We obtain the space $X_f = \mathbb{B}_{p+1} \cup_f \mathbb{B}_{n+1}$ (click on the picture below to launch animation, the file ajunction.mp4 should be stored in the same folder as the slides)



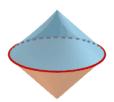


Figure: X_f where $f: \mathbb{S}_1 \to \mathbb{S}_1$ is the doubling map

Theorem

 ΣX_f has computable type $\iff \Sigma f$ is not homotopic to a constant.

 $\Sigma X_f \times \mathbb{S}_1$ has computable type $\iff \Sigma^2 f$ is not homotopic to a constant.

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From the literature on homotopy groups of spheres (Freudenthal, Whitehead, Toda, 1950s), there exists $f: \mathbb{S}_7 \to \mathbb{S}_3$ such that:

- $\Sigma f: \mathbb{S}_8 \to \mathbb{S}_4$ is not homotopic to a constant,
- $\Sigma^2 f: \mathbb{S}_9 \to \mathbb{S}_5$ is homotopic to a constant.

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Corollary

 ΣX_f and \mathbb{S}_1 have computable type, but $\Sigma X_f \times \mathbb{S}_1$ does not.

Summary

We give topological characterization of computable type, in terms of:

- the surjection property,
- homology,
- homotopy.

We derive applications: computable type is:

- visually decidable for 2-dimensional spaces,
- decidable,
- not preserved by products.

An open question

Reminder

If X is minimal satisfying some Σ_2^0 invariant, then X has computable type.

The converse implication fails in general. Does it hold for finite simplicial complexes?

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Thank you for your attention!